

Susan Gendron
Comissioner of Education
Augusta, Maine

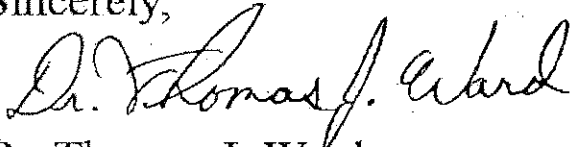
3/28/08

Dear Commissioner,

The purpose of this letter is to update you on SAD 21, 39, and 43's plan for reorganization. On March 31st we will be meeting with the Reorganization Planning Committee for our fifth meeting. At this meeting we will hear updates and recommendations from the Sub-Groups on Cost Sharing, School Real Property and Debt, and the Administrative Reorganization of the new Central Office. We have already reached consensus on a 17 member board and "Method D" weighted voting.

We have been working with Dick Spencer from Drummond & Woodsum to come up with a fair Cost Sharing proposal. We once again want to emphasize that without the Legislature passing LD 1932 with this included we will not be able to move ahead with reorganization.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Ward
Superintendent of Schools
MSAD #21
Dixfield, ME 04224

REC'D MAR 28 2008

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Date Plan Submitted: 12/19/07

Proposed RSU Operational Date: 7/1/09

Signature/Title	Date	SAU
Dr. Thomas J. Ward	12/19/07	MSAD #21
Signature/Title	Date	SAU
R. Lobnitz, Supt. MSAD #39	1/8/08	MSAD #39
Signature/Title	Date	SAU
James D. Felt, Supt. MSAD #43	1/8/08	MSAD #43
Signature/Title	Date	SAU
P. P. Freeman, Chair	Chair MSAD #43 1/8/08	MSAD #43
Signature/Title	Date	SAU
Steve Kaysmore, Chair	1/8/08	MSAD #39
Signature/Title	Date	SAU
Way, Supt. MSAD #21	1/8/08	MSAD #21
Signature/Title	Date	SAU
Signature/Title	Date	SAU
Signature/Title	Date	SAU

**REORGANIZATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY-MARCH 31, 2008
BUCKFIELD JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL
SCC
6:00 P.M.- 8:30 P.M.**

6:00 Dinner

6:30 Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, Explanation of Agenda
Chair: Stacey Raymond

6:40 Sub-Group 2: School Property/Debt Update- Colleen Bullocks


7:10 Sub-Group 5: Admin. Reorganization Update- Anne Simmons-Edmunds.

7:40 Sub-Group 6: Cost Sharing Update-Dr. Tom






8:15 Next Steps:

- Legislative Update
- Next RPC meeting, date and place.

8:30 Adjourn.

From:  Thomas Ward

Subject: Updates on Sub-Group meetings

To:  rcolpitts@msad39.org  "James Hodgkin" <JHodgkin@msad43.org>
 Benjamin.mcCollister@ssa.gov  staceraymond@yahoo.com
 Lengr@roadrunner.com

Cc:

Attachments:  REORGANIZATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING.doc

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In an effort to try and keep this group in the loop I am going to attempt to bring you up to speed on where each Sub-Group is presently at. I will start with the Cost Sharing (Sub-Group 6). We have met on each of the past three Tuesdays and are scheduled to meet again next Tuesday 3/25 at 9:00 in Jim's office SAD 43. Last Tuesday we invited Dick Spencer from Drummond & Woodsum to meet with us and it proved to be a very productive meeting as Dick recommended that we consider freezing the additional local sum of four million plus at the Jim Rier model percentages and come up with cost sharing any additional monies raised above that amount each year. Dick is going to run the figures on 50/50, 75 val./25 pupil, and 100 valuation. He is also going to average at least two previous fiscal years to establish the baseline percentage.

Property/Debt (Sub-Group 2) has met twice and made some great strides on what makes sense for dealing with debt and real school properties. This group will be presenting a proposal that basically leaves debt with state for schools, the responsibility of the new RSU as the RSU should be the owner and therefore, responsible for maintaining these facilities. This was also applied to the debt for improvements to these facilities such as heating, paving, roofs, etc... This sub-group is making the same recommendation for buses, computers/laptops, copiers. All are equipment that the new RSU will have to budget for maintenance/repair/replacement. Debt that would stay with the communities it was approved in would be debt related to Region 9 (SAD 43 & 21) and Region 11 (SAD #39).

Admin. reorganization (Sub-Group 5) met once and will be presenting a proposed staffing for a Central Office with an estimate of savings based on combining our three Central Offices into one. It was based on comparable school district's Central Offices of 2500 to 3000 students.

Each of these Sub-Groups will be presenting where they are at. Each still have work to do.

Attached is a proposed agenda for the March 31 meeting at Buckfield Jr./Sr. High School.

Dr. Tom

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